

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0068] at page 17 as follows:

[0068] In some embodiments of the invention, a septal puncture apparatus, such as the septal puncture apparatus 100 of FIG. 1, can be used to implant alternative occlusion devices (for example, sutures, adhesives, and/or staples) into the body of the patient to join tissue. The occlusion devices may, for example, be a suture of the type described in the co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/501,948, filed September 11, 2003, "Intracardiae Suture" (NMT-022), ~~filed simultaneously herewith~~, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference. In another embodiment of the invention, a septal puncture apparatus can include a remote tissue joining apparatus (e.g., a tissue welding apparatus) that is used to join tissue in the body of the patient.